7th February 1925] [The President]

which could not be resented by hon. Members. There are hon. Members who have not claimed travelling allowance perhaps for months and even for more than a year, and we have had considerable difficulty with the Audit department as regards such late claims. If we have information that they have attended, we can remind them as to their bills."

The hon. Mr. C. P Ramaswami Ayyar :—"There are two or three pending cases of claims which are more than one year old."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"I should like with your permission to put a blunt question. In case we do not attend the Council, we would be disentitled to the batta for the day, but I want to know—I do not speak of me personally —if I am in Madras and do not attend Council for a particular day, if I would be disentitled to claim batta."

* The hon. the President :—"If the hon. Member is in Madras and does not attend the Council on a particular day, I do not know whether he would be entitled or not. It is an audit matter altogether."

* Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—"I was told—but such question has not arisen in my own case—that in the case of mufassal members who come here and do not attend here every day but attend only on some days they are entitled to claim batta. The allowance is a halting allowance."

* The hon. the President :—"I believe this is the case if hon. Members for some reason or another do not sit throughout the whole of the session but attend on a day or two. I believe they are allowed travelling allowance and batta for the whole period. Nobody has questioned the accuracy of bills sent in by hon. Members on the ground of non-attendance and we are not going to make use of this information for that purpose. (Laughter.) I may assure hon. Members on that point, because it would be contrary to the rules to disallow a member's halting allowance merely because he did not attend on a particular day on which he was in Madras. It is only for days after the Council is over that the halting allowance is not paid."

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai :—"I think there is nothing derogatory in these hon. Gentlemen signing in the book. As you said, Sir, it would be a historical record to have the signatures, because afterwards if we pass away (Laughter) it will be a record of attendance. So, your order may stand and we may proceed with the business."

* The hon. the President :—"I am very reluctant to pass such an order. If it was passed, it could be disobeyed, as I would have no means of enforcing it."

IV

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL

The Secretary then laid on the table a copy of the [a] statement showing the resolutions of the House Committee and the action taken thereon.

11-30 a.m.

V

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1924-25.

Grant III.

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro :—"Sir, I beg to move :

'*That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs.* 65,000 ***under*** *Excise department—Transferred*'

---

*

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 519-521 infra.